Message Text

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ACTION EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 IO-10

L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /092 W

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R 021842Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7005

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 2841

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, SENV, MX

 ${\tt SUBJ: SECOND \ BINANTIONAL \ SYMPOSIUM \ ON \ US/MEXICO \ BORDER \ ENVIRONMENTAL \ }$

PROBLEMS: SEPARATE EPA/SMA MEETING

REF: MEXICO 2561

1. REFTEL IN PARA 2 REFERRED TO SEPARATE EPA/SMA MEETING AT WHICH AGREEMENT REACHED FOR "PROGRAM OF JOINT ACTIVITIES. EPA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FITZHUGH GREEN WAS TO SUMMARIZE "UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED" IN LETTER TO UNDERSECRETARY VIZCAINO MURRAY. (EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF THIS LETTER, DATED MARCH 20.)

2. AS DEPT AND EPA AWARE (SEE MEXICO CITY A-228 OF MAY 11, 1974 AND PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE), FOREIGN SECRETARIAT IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE OVER ITS PREROGATIVES WITH RESPECT TO "AGREEMENTS". SECRETARY RABASA HAS IN PAST WARNED EMBASSY THAT NO AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN MEXICA AND FOREIGN AGENCY IS VALID WITHOUT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT APPROVAL. FONSEC ACQUIESCED IN CONTINUATION OF BILATERAL BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TALKS (FOR "EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION") ONLY RELUCTANTLY

AND AFTER STRONG AND CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM OTHER GOM AGENCIES AND FROM EMBASSY.

3. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, DEPT AND EPA SHOULD EXERCISE GREAT CAUTION IN FORMULATING OR RELYING UPON ANY "AGREEMENT" OR "UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER MERITORIOUS, BETWEEN EPA AND SAM UNLESS FOREIGN SECRETARIAT APPROVAL OBTAINED.
BEFORE MEETING, SMA REPEATEDLY ASSURED SCI COUNSELOR AND ECON COUNSELOR THAT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT CONSTANTLY CONSULTED AND APPROVED ITS PLANS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, HAD NO SUCH INDICATION FROM FONSEC WHICH SENT NO REPRESENTATIVE TO MEETING. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GIVEN BACKGROUND OF INTERNAL GOM DIFFERENCES ON THESE TALKS, FOREIGN SECRETARIAT MAY FEEL THAT "AGREEMENTS" OR "UNDERSTANDINGS" REACHED BETWEEN USG AND GOM AGENCIES WITHOUT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATION, REFLECT SOME DEGREE OF BAD FAITH ON PART OF USG.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, MEETINGS, BOUNDARIES, JOINT VENTURES

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

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Subject: SECOND BINANTIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON US/MEXICO BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS: SEPARATE EPA/SMA MEETING TAGS: TECH, SENV, MX, US
To: STATE

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